

### Appendix 3.2.1 -- Bovine and Small Ruminant Semen

#### Suggested language:

Article 3.2.1.5.

#### Conditions applicable to testing of bulls and teaser animals

Bulls and teaser animals ~~can~~ should ~~may~~ enter an *artificial insemination centre* only if they fulfil the following requirements ~~laid down by the Veterinary Administration.~~

##### 1. Pre-quarantine

The animals should comply with the following requirements prior to entry into isolation at the *quarantine station*.

- a) ....
- b) Bovine tuberculosis

The animals should comply with point 2 3 or 4 of Article 2.3.3.4. of the *Terrestrial Code*.

#### Rationale/Comment:

We recommend the use of the word “may” rather than the word “should”.

The United States does not agree with point 2 as one of the recommended choices. Point 2 of Article 2.3.3.4 would allow for TB no testing of bulls during the pre-quarantine period. This recommendation is inconsistent with the requirements for bovine brucellosis, which calls for testing regardless of the brucellosis of the herd or zone in which the bull resides. Given that cases of bovine tuberculosis are on the increase in many countries, changing this requirement at this time is not a prudent recommendation.

#### Suggested language

Article 3.2.1.5.

...

#### Testing in the quarantine station prior to entering the semen collection facilities

Prior to entering the semen collection facilities of the *artificial insemination centre*, bulls and teaser animals should be kept in a *quarantine station* for at least 28 days. The animals

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should be subjected to diagnostic tests as described below a minimum of 21 days after entering the *quarantine station*, except for *Campylobacter fetus* subsp. *venerealis* and *Trichomonas foetus*, for which testing may commence after 7 days in quarantine. All the results should be negative except in the case of BVD-MD antibody serological testing (see point 2b)i) below).

a) Bovine brucellosis

~~If the country is not free from brucellosis~~, the animals should be subjected to a serological test with negative results.

**Rationale/Comment:**

The United States opposes the proposed text change to the current appendix. Country freedom for bovine brucellosis does not guarantee individual animal freedom, particularly under the guidelines of the current Code Chapter on Brucellosis. The current Code chapter on Brucellosis considers a country or zone as free of the disease if the infection rate “does not exceed 0.2% of the cattle herds of the country or zone under consideration”. Thus, there is an allowance for infected herds and, therefore, for individual infected cattle from a “free” zone or country. Testing for entry into a center herd that is periodically tested brucellosis free is necessary.